

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2026**  
**OF**  
**PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1**  
**OF**  
**THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

The first regular meeting for January 2026 of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County was called to order on January 13, 2026. The meeting commenced at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Jim Campbell, Russell E. Olsen, and Chris Stearns were present for the hybrid meeting hosted via Zoom video conferencing and in-person at District Headquarters, located at 1230 Ruddell Road SE, Lacey, Washington 98503. District staff present at the meeting include:

- John Weidenfeller, General Manager (GM)
- Julie Parker, Assistant General Manager (AGM)
- Kim Gubbe, Director of Planning and Compliance (DPC)
- TaSeana Tartt, Finance Director (FD)
- David Gruver, Acting Director of Field Operations (ADFO)
- Kurin Miller, Administrative Services Coordinator (ASC) and Clerk to the Board
- Kalelia Gipson, Customer Service Representative and Associate Clerk to the Board

**Call to Order:**

Commissioner Olsen called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Commissioner Stearns made a motion to approve the agenda as presented: Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

**Consent Calendar:**

Approval of Minutes: December 9, 2025

Prequalification of Contractors: None

Correspondence: None

**Voucher Approval:**

- 1) Accounts Payables: December 10, 2025, December 17, 2025, December 19, 2025, December 24, 2025, December 31, 2025, January 7, 2026
- 2) Payroll: December 19, 2025, January 5, 2026

**Other:**

- 1) Reminder: January Association Meetings at WPUDA (Olympia), January 14-16, 2026
- 2) Reminder: WPUDA Legislative Reception, 5:15 p.m. on January 14, 2026
- 3) Reminder: 2026 WASWD Commissioners Workshop in Lynwood, January 31, 2026
- 4) Reminder: 2026 Commissioner Assignments
- 5) Emergency Waiver of Competitive Bidding Requirements, December 11, 2025 – 1240 Ruddell Rd SE, Lacey, WA 98503
- 6) Emergency Waiver of Competitive Bidding Requirements, December 19, 2025 – Crescent Park 355 Water System
- 7) Resolution 26-03, Revised 2026 Rate Schedule for Cedar Shores 677 Generator Surcharge Amendment

**Approval of Consent Calendar:**

**Commissioner Stearns made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented: Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

**Public Comments:**

One member of the public was present virtually, but they did not provide public comment.

**Information or Discussion of Operations/Policy Issues:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Resolution 26-01, 2026 Commission Meeting Schedule**

AGM Parker introduced Resolution 26-01, adoption of which would set the regular Commission meetings for 2026 and update the Board's process. Commissioner Olsen had a few questions that AGM Parker addressed.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Resolution 26-02, Update to Water System Improvement Surcharge Provisions**

FD Tatt introduced Resolution 26-02, adoption of which would update and standardize the provisions of new surcharges implemented for water system improvements not required by the Washington State Department of Health or a local health department. Commissioner Stearns asked about anticipated votes for other water systems requesting generators; GM Weidenfeller addressed the Commissioner's question. The Board discussed acquisitions and water rights at length with GM Weidenfeller.

**Action/Approval Item(s): None**

**Presentations:**

GM Weidenfeller reported on several potential water system acquisitions, including the Dana Passage Water System. Commissioner Olsen asked about the effect of the District's credit rating for an acquisition-related financial decision; GM Weidenfeller addressed the Commissioner's question.

AGM Parker spoke about expected increases to the District's group healthcare plan premiums. Staff discussed this topic with the Board at length. Commissioner Olsen asked about any options to help buffer the costs for employees; GM Weidenfeller and AGM Parker addressed the Commissioner's question.

ADFO Gruver gave updates on newly replaced, repaired, and ordered generators for several District-owned water systems. Commissioner Olsen asked about District property damaged by recent flooding; GM Weidenfeller and AGM Parker addressed the Commissioner's question.

DPC Gubbe provided several updates to her report; the DPC spoke about the reservoir and highlights on other infrastructure at the Pattison 500 water system, an update on the contract for PFAS treatment at the Tanglewilde-Thompson Place 600 water system, and customer compliance for the District's Cross-Connection Control Program.

FD Tatt provided an update on water service disconnections, some of which were paused due to the holidays. The FD also spoke about the District's Water Tree Operations Program, specifically the water systems provided with a water tree and training for volunteers in 2025 and the plans for this program in 2026. Commissioner Olsen asked about the action expected from volunteers when emergencies happen; GM Weidenfeller and FD Tatt addressed the Commissioner's question, and the Board discussed this topic briefly with staff.

**Commissioner Topics, Discussions, and Reports:**

Commissioner Campbell recently attended a Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) meeting.

Commissioner Stearns made comments on his thankfulness for his fellow Board members and District staff. Commissioner Olsen mirrored Commissioner Stearns's thanks. Commissioner Stearns made additional comments on serving District customers.

Commissioner Olsen reported on personal matters related to the recent holiday season. The Commissioner also reported on PUD-related activity in the 2026 Legislative Session. Commissioner Stearns added some information about the Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) after Commissioner Olsen spoke about an article he recently reviewed on the fund.

**Executive Session:** At 5:50 p.m., Commissioner Olsen announced that the Board would enter into an Executive Session to consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of decreased price, in accordance with the provisions of RCW 42.30.110 (1)(c), and to consider the selection of a site of the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price, in accordance with the provisions of RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b), for 15 minutes until 6:05 p.m. At 6:05 p.m., the Executive Session ended, and the regular meeting resumed. No final action was taken during Executive Session.

**Adjournment:** Commissioner Stearns made a motion to adjourn the meeting: Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

**Assignments:**

1. Email to Commissioner Olsen the date and time of the meeting with the Washington State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water Director regarding the District's Water Tree Operations Program.
2. Share with the Board the article that Commissioner Olsen forwarded to GM Weidenfeller regarding the PWTF.

*Russell E. Olsen*  
Russell E. Olsen (Jan 27, 2026 20:54:14 PST)

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Russell E. Olsen, Commissioner and President

Attest:

*Christopher Stearns*  
Christopher Stearns (Jan 28, 2026 14:17:23 PST)

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Christopher Stearns, Commissioner and Secretary

# Minutes 01132026

Final Audit Report

2026-01-28

Created:	2026-01-28
By:	Julie Parker (julieparker@thurstonpud.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAdMv0lzhBWdi2rJ4IP7A_7i7WKxYpyS9j

## "Minutes 01132026" History

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2026-01-28 - 1:44:43 AM GMT
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2026-01-28 - 1:44:47 AM GMT
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2026-01-28 - 1:44:47 AM GMT
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2026-01-28 - 4:53:57 AM GMT
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Signature Date: 2026-01-28 - 4:54:14 AM GMT - Time Source: server
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2026-01-28 - 10:16:45 PM GMT
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